



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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District of Arizona*

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PHOENIX FELON SENTENCED TO 85 MONTHS PRISON FOR POSSESSION OF BODY ARMOR AND A FIREARM

PHOENIX – On November 21, 2006, Rick Anthony Holt, 28, of Phoenix, was sentenced here to 85 months in federal prison by U.S. District Judge Roger G. Strand. Holt had pleaded guilty on June 27, 2006 to two charges; Violent Felon in Possession of Body Armor and Felon in Possession of a Firearm.

Holt was found in possession of the body armor and firearm when apprehended by Officers of the Phoenix Police Department in a separate investigation. The case was forwarded to federal agents and prosecutors due to Holt's extensive criminal record, including two separate violent felony convictions for Attempted Aggravated Assault; one out of La Paz County, the other out of Maricopa County. After serving his federal sentence, Holt will be placed on three years supervised release, the terms of which include no association with gang members. Holt's prosecution in federal court is part of the District of Arizona's Project Safe Neighborhoods, an illegal firearms enforcement program.

The effectiveness of Project Safe Neighborhoods in Arizona is based on the ability of federal, state, and local agencies to cooperate in a unified offensive that is led by U.S. Attorney Paul K. Charlton. Through ongoing partnerships among federal, state, and local law enforcement and prosecutorial agencies, like the one in this case, the U.S. Attorney is implementing a series of strategies that are contoured to fit the specific gun crime problems throughout Arizona.

The investigation in this case was conducted by the Phoenix Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. The prosecution was handled by Michael Lee, Special Assistant U.S. Attorney, District of Arizona.

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